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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,926	02/27/2002	Lixiao Wang	10527-395001/ 02-026 (100)	4859
28075	7590	12/22/2008	EXAMINER	
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC			SEVERSON, RYAN J	
1221 NICOLLET AVENUE				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420			3731	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/22/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/083,926	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan Severson	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-34,43,73-78 and 82-96 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-18,20-34,43,73-78 and 82-96 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 23 October 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-29, 31, 33, 34, 43, 73-78, 82-84 and 88-96 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al. (6,942,680) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234) and Campbell et al. (5,458,572).** Grayzel reference discloses the balloon catheter including a balloon (112) that has a striped portion (114) encapsulated therein (see figure 5B) having a lower distensibility than the balloon. The striped portions run the length of the balloon parallel to the longitudinal axis of the balloon. The striped portions are also evenly spaced circumferentially within the balloon. In the embodiment shown, there are eight striped portions encapsulated in the balloon. The striped portions can also include a colorant (radiopaque material) to allow

them to be visible under fluoroscopy (see column 11, lines 1-18). The striped portions can be formed of a polymer (see column 6, lines 50-52). However, Grayzel reference does not disclose cutting elements attached to the balloon. Attention is drawn to Vigil reference, which teaches the use of cutting elements that are disposed on a balloon (see figures 2-4) to further assist in dilation of a stenotic portion of a vessel. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the cutting elements of Vigil on the balloon of Grayzel to assist in dilation of a stenotic portion of a vessel.

4. Further, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil references do not teach the cutting elements be centered over the striped portions. However, it has been held that choosing from a finite number of solutions to obtain a predictable result is a rationale for determining obviousness. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. (KSR)*, 550 U.S. ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007). As set forth above, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil references produces a device having eight striped portions (Grayzel) and four cutting elements (Vigil). It can be seen that there are only a finite number of positions the blades can be placed on the exterior surface of the balloon, with one of the various positions being the blades centered over the striped portions. Therefore, it would have been obvious one of ordinary skill in the art to have the cutting elements centered over the striped portions since this is one of a limited number of possible positions for the cutting elements to be located relative to the striped portions.

5. Further, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil references does not disclose the discrete strip of material extends through the entire length of the balloon. Attention is

drawn to Campbell reference, which teaches discrete strips of stiffening material (6) can extend the entire length of the balloon (see figure 1) to allow all portions of the balloon to be stiffened. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the discrete strip material of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil references extend the entire length of the balloon in the manner taught by Campbell reference to allow all portions of the balloon to be stiffened instead of only the body portion.

6. Regarding claims 6-9, 11-13, and 23-30, the combination of Grayzel, Vigil, and Campbell references does not disclose a specific distensibility of the striped portion relative to the balloon. However, it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

7. Regarding claims 10 and 20, the claims are written in product-by-process form. It has been held that even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)

8. Regarding claims 88-93, Grayzel discloses the material of the striped portions can vary (see column 6, lines 48 and 49) if desired. Further, the combination set forth

above includes 4 cutting elements from Vigil and 8 striped portions from Grayzel, leaving some of the striped portions without a cutting element centered over it.

9. **Claims 30 and 85-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al. (6,942,680) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234) and Campbell et al. (5,458,572) as applied to claims 1, 14 and 43 above, and further in view of Roychowdhury (5,587,125).** Regarding claim 30, the combination of Grayzel, Vigil, and Campbell references does not disclose the striped portion is a liquid crystal polymer. Attention is drawn to Roychowdhury reference, which teaches that liquid crystal polymers may be used in balloons to provide exceptional tensile qualities (see column 5, lines 8-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the striped portions of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil of liquid crystal polymer, as taught by Roychowdhury reference, to provide exceptional tensile qualities to the balloon.

10. Regarding claims 85-87, the combination of Grayzel, Vigil, and Campbell references does not disclose the first material (the balloon) comprises a compatibilizing material. Attention is again drawn to Roychowdhury reference, which teaches the use of compatibilizing materials to help the balloon bond to the catheter body (see column 5, lines 26-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the compatibilizing material of Roychowdhury reference with the balloon of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil references to enhance the bond between the balloon and the catheter body.

11. **Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al. (6,942,680) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234) and Campbell et al. (5,458,572) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Spears (5,092,841).**

The combination of Grayzel, Vigil, and Campbell references does not disclose the balloon comprises an inorganic additive. Attention is drawn to Spears reference, which teaches the use of an inorganic salt drug to provide treatment to the vessel (see column 7, lines 56-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the inorganic additive of Spears reference on the balloon of the combination of Grayzel, Vigil, and Campbell references to provide treatment to the vessel.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14 and 43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Severson whose telephone number is (571)272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731